

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01 /095 W

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P R 071905Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8885

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

USCINCSO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 6224

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PBOR, BH, UK, GT

SUBJ: BELIZE, PRESS COVERAGE

1. VICE FONMIN OBIOLS HELD NEWS CONFERENCE NOV 6, AT WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THAT UN LACKED "COMPETENCE" TO RESOLVE BELIZE CASE. IN THE EVENT OF PASSAGE OF AN ADVERSE RESOLUTION, "GUATEMALA IS NOT OBLIGED TO EITHER ACCEPT IT OR HEED IT."

2. OBIOLS READ TO THE PRESS A LTR DELIVERED BY GUATEMALA'S UN PERMREP MALDONADO TO SECGEN WALDHEIM. KEY PORTION OF LTR: "MY GOVERNMENT MAKES A FORMAL RESERVATION OVER THE COMPETENCY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE FOURTH COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE (BELIZE) MATTER AND TO TRY TO RESOLVE POLITICALLY A COMPLEX LEGAL PROBLEM (WHICH IS) UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBJECT TO RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE (CONCERNED) PARTIES

THROUGH THE PEACEFUL MEANS ESTABLISHED BY THE UN  
CHARTER."

3. LTR ADDED THAT FOURTH COMMITTE HAD BEEN PROVIDED  
WITH DOCUMENTS ABOUT BELIZE, "WHICH FORMS PART OF THE  
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL UNITY OF GUATEMALA".

4. ACCORDING TO OBIOLS, TALKS WITH UK "ARE STILL IN  
THE WORKS. BUT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO WAIT UNTIL  
POSSIBLY NEXT WEEK, WHEN WE KNOW WHAT THE POSITION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF OUR TERRITORY  
OF BELIZE WILL BE TO BE ABLE TO THINK OF THE RESUMPTION  
OF THESE BILATERAL CONTACTS."

5. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THE CONGRESS APPROVED RESO-  
LUTIONS INSTRUCTING PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO CONTACT  
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE LATIN AMERICAN  
PARLIAMENT REQUESTING THEIR SUPPORT ON THE BELIZE  
ISSUE. THE GUATEMALAN JOURNALISTS ASSOC. DELIVERED  
TO PRESIDENT LAUGERUD A RESOLUTION BACKING  
GUATEMALA'S CLAIM. LAUGERUD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION  
FOR THE JOURNALISTS' SUPPORT, SAYING "IT MAKES US FEEL  
STRONGER IN OUR CLAIM OF OUR JUST RIGHTS TO THE  
TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY GREAT BRITAIN. ...THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC IS PREPARED TO ACT IN STRICT COMPLIANCE  
WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR COUNTRY, WHICH DECLARES  
THAT BELIZE IS PART OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY." ONLY  
TWO NEWSPAPERS PRINTED STORIES ABOUT THE NOV 6  
MEETING BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND PRESIDENT LAUGERUD;  
NEITHER CONTAINED ANY DETAILS ABOUT MATTERS DISCUSSED.

6. THE AFTERNOON PRESS OF NOV 6 QUOTED THE PRESIDENT'S  
PRESS SECRETARY AS SAYING THAT ANY PUBLIC DICALARATION  
FAVORING BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE, FROM INDIVIDUALS OR  
ORGANIZATIONS, WAS TANTAMOUNT TO TREASON. ONLY  
INSTITUTION HE MIGHT HAVE HAD READILY IN MIND IS THE  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, WHOSE RECTOR RECENTLY CAUTIOUSLY  
EXPRESSED SOME HERETICAL VIEWS.

7. EDITORIAL OPINION HAS BEEN NOTABLY ABSENT. BOTH  
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OF THE MAJOR MORNING NEWSPAPERS CARRIED EDITORIALS ON  
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SUBJECTS. THE ONLY STRIDENTLY  
HAWKISH EDITORIALS TO APPEAR WERE PUBLISHED IN THE  
AFTERNOON LA HORA OF NOV 6. EDITOR CLEMENTE  
MARROQUIN ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS "ZERO HOUR" AND THAT  
"THE MOMENT OF TRUTH HAD ARRIVED." MARROQUIN'S  
HAWKISHNESS IS A LONGTIME THING, HOWEVER, SO THE  
EDITORIALS REPRESENTED NO NEW DEPARTURE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 NOV 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Review Date:** 26 AUG 2003  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BELIZE, PRESS COVERAGE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, BH, UK, GT, UN, (OBIOLS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006